

Appl. No. 10/605,252
Amdt. dated June 06, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 17, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guyot et al. (US 6,060,880, hereinafter Guyot).

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Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 1 now recites that a screw bit of a screwdriver is inserted into a screw recess of a screw until magnetic flux detected by a magnetic sensor reaches a predetermined value. As the screw bit becomes
10 more perfectly matched with the screw recess, the magnetic flux value increases. Therefore, the measured magnetic flux value gives a clear indication of the relative positions of the screw bit and the screw recess.

On the other hand, Guyot teaches measuring the distance between two objects by
15 measuring the magnetic flux between them. However, Guyot does not teach inserting a screw bit into a screw recess according to a measured magnetic flux value between the screw bit and the screw, as is recited in the currently amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentably distinguished from Guyot. Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

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2. Rejection of claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (US 4,657,451).

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Response:

As explained above, claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 1 now recites that a screw bit of a screwdriver is inserted into a screw recess of a screw

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until magnetic flux detected by a magnetic sensor reaches a predetermined value.

On the other hand, Tanaka only teaches a contact detecting system for determining when a tool element 4 comes into contact with a workpiece 5, as shown in Tanaka's Fig. 1.

- 5 Tanaka does not teach inserting a screw bit into a screw recess and measuring the magnetic flux generated between them. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Tanaka. Claim 10 is cancelled, and is no longer in need of consideration. Reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

- 10 3. Rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guyot and Kono et al (US 2001/0009366, hereinafter Kono).

Response:

- 15 Kono also does not teach inserting a screw bit into a screw recess until magnetic flux detected by a magnetic sensor reaches a predetermined value, as is recited in the amended claim 1. Furthermore, claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

- 20 4. Rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Guyot or Tanaka in view of Kono and Ghibu et al. (US 3,849,724, hereinafter Ghibu).

Response:

- 25 Claims 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 5 and 6 is respectfully requested.

5. Rejection of claims 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

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Claims 7-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Otsuki et al. (US 4,562,756, hereinafter Otsuki).

Response:

5 Otsuki teaches using ultrasonic beams to find the position of screw holes for determining where screws should be inserted, as Otsuki illustrates in Fig.4(a). However, Otsuki does not teach inserting a screw bit into a screw recess until magnetic flux detected by a magnetic sensor reaches a predetermined value, as is recited in the amended claim 1.

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Claims 8, 9, and 11 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Claim 7 is cancelled, and is no longer in need of consideration. Reconsideration of claims 8, 9, and 11 is respectfully requested.

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6. Introduction to new claim 12:

New claim 12 is dependent on claim 1, and further recites that as the screw bit is inserted into the screw recess, the screw bit is rotated to fit into the screw recess, thereby phase matching the screw bit and the screw recess. None of the cited prior art references teach this feature. Acceptance of new claim 12 is respectfully requested.

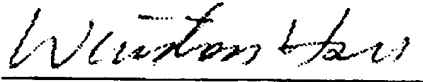
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In view of the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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